

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 and 13-20 are pending. Claims 1-10 and 13-16 have been amended. Claims 11-12 have been canceled without disclaimer or surrender of the subject matter claimed therein. Claims 17-20 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-10 and 13-16 were amended to place the claims in better idiomatic English, and address the Examiner's contentions that certain informalities existed in claims 1-10 and 13-16.

Status of the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for exceeding the limit of 150 words. The Abstract has been replaced and now contains less than 150 words. Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 11-12 have been canceled, thus, rendering the rejection moot with respect to claims 11-12.

Claims 1-10 and 13-16 have been amended to better set forth the invention and address the informalities noted in the Office Action, paragraph 4. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 10, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,950,068 to Bordi et al. ("Bordi").

Applicants submit that Bordi discloses support legs 421, 422, 423 extruded from the same conductive antenna billet as the planar radiating plane 410. In contrast, present claim 1 recites a method for producing an antenna component and includes the step of "machining a protrusion into a planar plastic blank to create a dielectric supporting part." In contrast, Bordi discloses conductive support legs. Therefore, Bordi fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. Thus, Bordi does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 10, 15 and 16 depend from claim 1, and distinguish over Bordi for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 10, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by PCT Application No. WO 03/067705 to Mendolia et al. ("Mendolia").

Applicants submit that Mendolia discloses a planar antenna formed using "conventional printed circuit board (PCB) technology." (Mendolia, page 8, second paragraph and Fig. 5.) Mendolia discloses a feed pin 802 and a RF shorting pin or post 804, which are conductive, supporting the patch antenna over the ground plane. (Mendolia, page 11, second paragraph and Fig. 8.)

Thus, Mendolia fails to disclose or suggest a method which includes the step of "machining a protrusion into a planar plastic blank to create a dielectric supporting part," as recited in claim 1.

Claims 10, 15 and 16 depend from claim 1, and distinguish over Mendolia for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-9 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bordi or Mendolia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,281,842 to Moren. Claim 12 has been canceled, thus, rendering the rejection moot with respect to claim 12.

The Examiner relies on Moren as disclosing “the mounting substrate is in form of tape reel or wound on a coil form.” (Detailed Action, item 9, page 6.)

Applicants submit that Moren discloses a roll 101 comprising antenna elements 103, 104, 105, 106 and a protective carrier layer 107. “When the film 101 is fed over the edge 109 the antenna element 103 **detach from the protective layer** 107. . . . This enables a mounting machine 111 to easily grab the antenna element 103 for mounting on a antenna support structure (not shown).” (Emphasis added. Moren, column 3, lines 7-23.)

Claims 2-9 and 13-16 depend from claim 1, and recite features in addition to their base claim. Both the combinations of Bordi and Moren, and of Mendolia and Moren neither discloses, nor suggests, “machining a protrusion into a planar plastic block,” nor “fastening the formed radiator, feed conductor and shorting conductor to the protrusion” of a plastic planar block, nor “providing at least one opening in the planar plastic blank around said protrusion,” as recited in claims 2-9 and 13-16 through their base claim.

Further, Moren does not disclose, or suggest, the features of claims 2-9 and 13-16 demonstrated above to be missing from both Bordi and Mendolia with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, the combinations of Bordi and Moren, and of Mendolia and Moren fail to render claims 2-9 and 13-16 obvious. Thus, the Examiner has failed to meet the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness over claims 2-9 and 13-16. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Added Claims 17-20

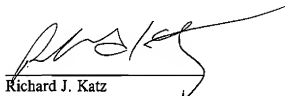
Added independent claim 17 recites an embodiment of the present invention where the plastic block includes a conductive film. This is similar in subject matter to that which was contained in canceled claims 11-12. Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17. Applicants submit that claims 17-20 distinguish over the art of record, and thus are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated July 24, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-10 and 13-20 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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